

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



DATE

*CONTACT PERSON
POSITION
TRIBE
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2

Subject: California Department of Water Resources California Aqueduct Subsidence Program Groundwater Monitoring Well Program

Dear Contact Person,

This letter serves as a notification and invitation to the FULL NAME OF TRIBE (the Tribe) to consult with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1, on DWR's proposed California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) Groundwater Monitoring Well Program (Project). DWR is planning to install three (3) groundwater monitoring wells at California Aqueduct Mileposts 213, 271.2, and 279.1 within the San Joaquin Field Division (Project Sites). This work will provide real-time data to monitor groundwater levels as they relate to ground subsidence. The data will be used to help inform how subsidence is affecting the California Aqueduct and will assist in groundwater management, subsidence mitigation, and maintaining infrastructure of the State Water Project.

Prior to the start of drilling, site improvements will include vegetation removal, grading of a work area measuring approximately 200 feet by 500 feet, and grading of a path from the embankment to the work area measuring approximately 200 feet in length and 15 feet in width. Depth of these activities is not expected to exceed 6 inches. Well diameters will be 18 inches, tapering to 10 inches at lower depths. Wells depths will vary between 600 and 2,700 feet below ground surface. If required, a shallow (no greater than 2-foot deep), bermed, and plastic-sheeting lined 'cuttings pit' or hopper will be located at the output end of a shaker table. The shaker table separates drill cuttings from the drilling fluid and dumps the cuttings off the end of the table (output end). The cuttings are then removed from the output end and stored in the roll-off bins for later disposal. The dimensions of the completed well pad will be approximately 2 feet by 2 feet with a wellhead height of approximately 3 feet above existing ground surface. Cuttings will be collected and disposed of offsite.

Equipment will include one drill rig (e.g., truck-mounted, Fraste FS400 mud rotary drill, or equivalent) and support equipment to include equipment trailers and support truck, shaker table, backhoe, forklift, 20-yard bins, CONEX container(s), portable toilets, and DWR/contractor passenger vehicles (e.g., trucks). If 24-hour shifts are required, two trailer mounted light towers and one additional transportation truck will be required. An equipment and materials staging area will be located near each of the drilling activities. Work is anticipated to occur in late 2023 or early 2024. Activities at each drill site are anticipated to last 45 to 60 days. Operations will consist of monthly onsite check-ins to gather data, which includes one truck onsite to review the logs.

A cultural resources study was completed for the Project, which included a records search through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) covering the Project Sites plus a 0.25-mile buffer, a pedestrian survey, and a geoarchaeological review. No archaeological resources were identified in the Project Sites as a result of the study, and no previously recorded archaeological resources are within a 0.25-mile radius of the Project Sites. The geoarchaeological review indicates that the Project Sites at Mileposts 213 and 297.1 have low surface and buried

site potential and the Project Site at Milepost 271.2 has high to highest surface and buried site potential. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search covering the Project Sites was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission, but the results have not yet been received.

DWR is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposing to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). As part of the cultural resources review of the proposed Project under CEQA, we are writing to provide your Tribe with the opportunity to submit any information that you are willing to share about cultural resources that may be in close proximity to the proposed Project Sites shown in Attachment 1, especially Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074. We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code section 6254.10.

As indicated earlier, this letter also serves as a formal invitation to your Tribe to consult with DWR regarding the proposed Project under AB 52 and Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1. If your Tribe would like to participate in formal consultation with DWR, please notify the undersigned, in writing, within 30 calendar days of receipt of this notice.

If a written request is not received by DWR within 30 calendar days, the consultation process under Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 will not take place. DWR is, however, committed to working together with your Tribe consistent with its Tribal Engagement Policy and the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy. This notification does not limit the ability of your Tribe to submit information to DWR (PRC section 21080.3.2.).

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (916) 216-8637, or by email at Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Anecita Agustinez
Tribal Policy Advisor
Department of Water Resources
Executive Division

cc: Mariko Falke, DWR Executive Tribal Liaison
Jacqueline Wait, DWR Cultural Resources Section Lead
Marea McCann, DWR Senior Environmental Scientist